

NEWS RELEASE

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FIRE RESTRICTION ORDERED FOR PORTIONS OF UTAH

Increasing fire danger has resulted in a Stage I fire restriction order for most of southern Utah. The fire restriction takes effect at 12:01 a.m., May 24, 2002, and will remain in effect until rescinded. The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, in conjunction with the USDA Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have included all federal and state lands in Grand, San Juan, Washington, Kane, Garfield and Iron Counties, and lands west of I-15 in Beaver County. All lands in Emery and Carbon counties are also included with the exception of National Forest lands in those counties. The order includes Zions, Bryce and Cedar Breaks National Parks, as well as the Moab and Monticello Ranger Districts in the Manti-LaSal National Forest. It does not apply to incorporated cities and towns.

The fire restriction prohibits fireworks, as well as open fires or campfires except in a developed recreation site. Smoking is also prohibited except in an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or in an area that has been cleared of all flammable materials. The use of propane stoves is not prohibited.

“A Stage I Fire Restriction Order is not usually needed until late June or early July, so this is an indication of just how dry things are,” explained State Forester Joel Frandsen. “Needless to say we’re asking everyone to be especially careful with all forms of fire.”

Recreationists are also reminded that if they are responsible for starting a fire they may be held financially liable for the costs associated with putting it out. In even the smallest of wildland fires those costs easily rise into the thousands of dollars.

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